

# Population

Kansas increased in population from 2,723,507 residents in 2003 to 2,735,502 residents in 2004, a 0.4 percent increase. Johnson, Leavenworth and Franklin counties had the largest increases in population from 2000 to 2004 with percent changes of 10.1, 5.5, and 5.1 respectively. Ness, Republic and Geary counties had the largest decreases in population with percent changes of 10.8, 10.5, and 10.1 respectively. ([Table 2](#))

Frontier and rural counties continue to lose population (5.2 and 3.0 respectively) while semi-urban, and urban counties gain in population (0.9, and 4.5 respectively). ([Table 2](#))

The rate of natural increase (difference between birth rate and death rate) has generally declined from a rate of 7.9 in 1965. However, in 2004, the rate of natural increase was 5.8, a 7.4 percent increase from 5.4 in 2003. ([Figure 5](#))

The median age of Kansans in 2004 was 35.8 years, a 4.4 percent increase from the 34.3 median age in 1995. The median age for Kansas males and females in 2004 was 34.3 and 37.3 respectively. ([Figure 6](#), [Table 4](#))

The percent increase in the Kansas total population from 1995-2004 was 6.7 percent, including a 7.6 percent increase for Kansas males and a 5.6 percent increase for Kansas females. Shifts in the Kansas population distribution by age from 1995 to 2004 included decreases in the 5-14, 25-34, 35-44, and 65-74 age-groups of 4.6, 3.5, 5.6, and 7.1 percent respectively. An increase of 35.6 percent in residents 45-54 years of age and 28.1 percent in residents 55-64 years of age reflected the aging of the baby boomers. Furthermore, there were 3.3, 15.7, and 9.5 percent increases in the 0-4, 15-24, and 75 and over age-groups respectively. ([Figure 7](#), [Table 4](#))

The population density of Kansas was 33.4 persons per square mile in 2004, a 24.2 percent increase from 26.9 persons per square mile in 1965 and a 6.4 percent increase in population density since 1995. For comparison, the population density of the U.S. has increased from 53.7 to 83.0 persons per square mile from 1965 to 2004 respectively, a 54.6 percent increase. ([Figure 8](#))

In 2004, 32 of Kansas' 105 counties had population densities of less than 6.0 persons per square mile. The most sparsely populated county was Wallace with a density of 1.7 persons per square mile. The most densely populated county was Johnson, with 1,041.3 persons per square mile. ([Figure 9](#))